Women in Alberta

Income and Paid Work

Median total income

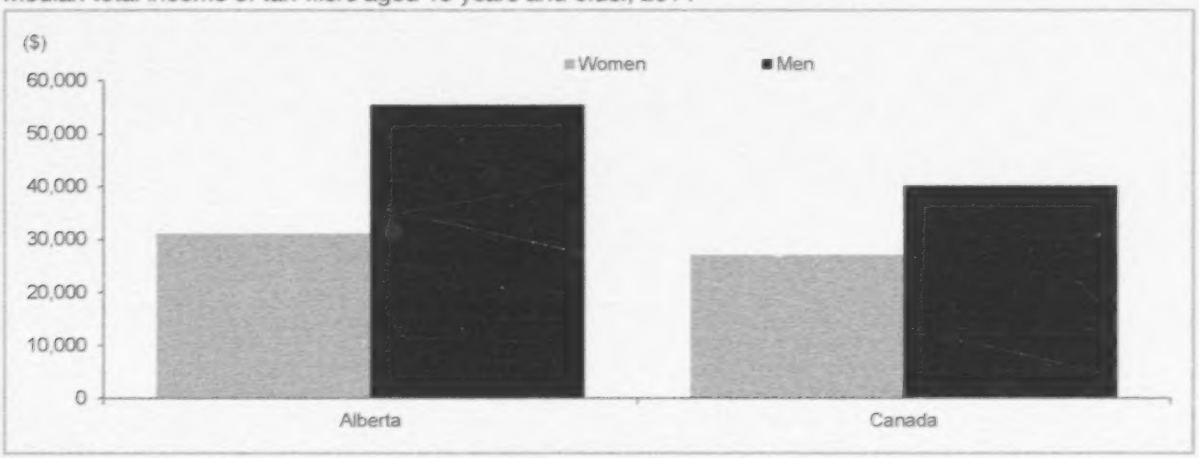
- In 2014, women in Alberta had a median total income of about $31,150, while men in Alberta had a median total income of $55,470. This means that women's total income was 43.8% less than men's in that year.
- Nationally, the median total income for women was also substantially lower than for men in 2014 ($27,090 compared with $40,120). Women's total income in Canada was 32.5% lower than men's.
- Overall, both women and men in Alberta had higher median total incomes than Canada; however, the income gap between men and women was notably higher in Alberta.

Income by family type

- Couple families had median total incomes of about $109,760 and $86,410 in Alberta and Canada respectively.
- Compared to other provinces, lone-parent families in Alberta had the highest total median income; 13.4% higher than the Canada median ($47,370 compared to $41,780).
- In Alberta, 63.6% of couple families (and 59.0% nationally) had dual incomes, which probably accounts for some of the income disparity between couple and lone-parent families.

Chart 1: Median income gaps between women and men

Median total income of tax-filers aged 15 years and older, 2014



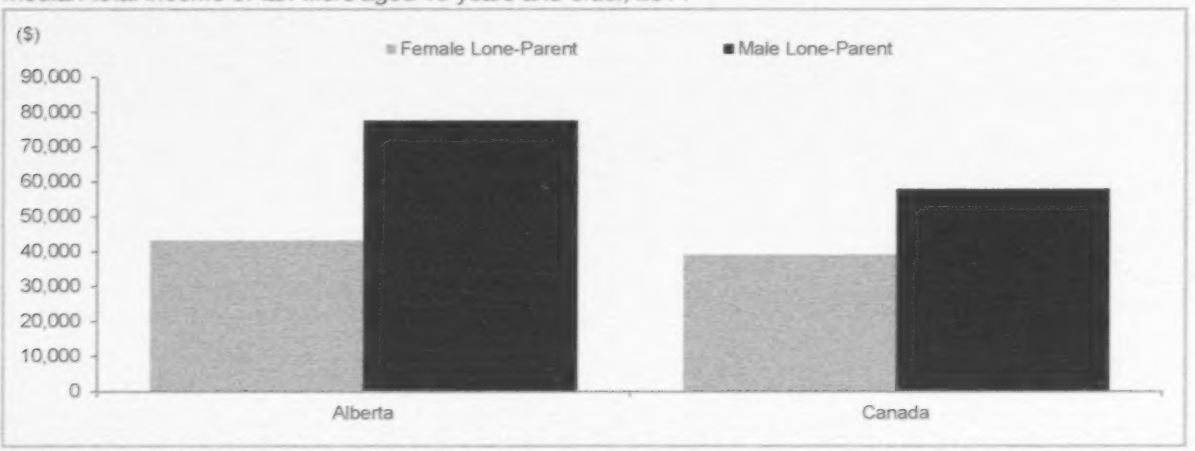
Source: Statistics Canada, T1 Family File

Alberta Government

June 12, 2017
Treasury Board and Finance
Office of Statistics and Information
Status of Women

- Female lone-parent families across Canada earned 32.5% less than their male counterparts ($39,020 compared to $57,840). However, the income gap was larger in Alberta, where female lone-parent households earned 44.3% less than male-led households ($43,170 compared with $77,560).

Chart 2: Median income gaps for lone-parent families
Median total income of tax-filers aged 15 years and older, 2014



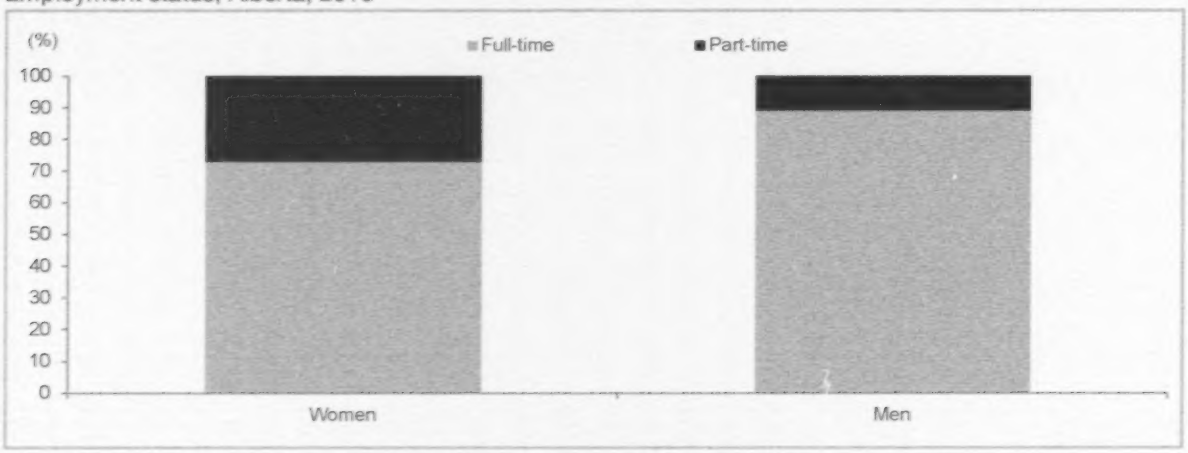
Source: Statistics Canada, T1 Family File

Paid work

- In Alberta, women's participation in the labour force was consistently above the national rate from 2006 to 2016, but was still considerably below those of men in the province.
- In 2016, the participation rate among women in Alberta was about 66.3% (compared to 61.3% of women nationwide), while 78.6% of men in Alberta (70.3% of men in Canada) were in the labour force.
- While female employment levels remain lower than for males, an increasing number of women continue to enter the workforce. The number of women in paid employment in Alberta rose from 862,000 in 2006 to 1,030,000 in 2016, representing an increase of 19.5% over the ten year period, compared with a 17.5% increase for men (from 1,050,000 to 1,234,000).
- Employment in Canada grew at a slower rate than in Alberta. In Canada, employment increased by 11.9% among women (from 7,709,000 to 8,625,000) and 8.8% among men (from 8,687,000 to 9,455,000) between 2006 and 2016.
- In 2016, approximately 72.5% of female workers (747,000) and 88.7% of male workers (1,095,000) were employed full-time in Alberta.
- Women in Alberta were more than twice as likely as men to work part-time (27.5% of women compared with 11.3% of men).
- Men were more likely to be self-employed than women. In 2016, 12.0% (124,000) of total employed women were self-employed in Alberta, compared with 20.2% (249,000) of men. National self-employment rates among men and women were generally comparable to Alberta's: 11.7% (1,013,000) of female workers and 18.6% (1,757,000) of male workers were self-employed across Canada.

- Unemployment rates among women and men in Alberta differed slightly from 2006 to 2016, but generally followed similar trends. In 2016, the unemployment rate among women and men in Alberta was 7.3% and 8.9%, respectively. Nationally, the unemployment rate among women was also lower than that of men (6.2% and 7.7%, respectively).

Chart 3: Women more likely to have part-time employment than men
Employment status, Alberta, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Employment by industry and occupation

- A large majority of female workers aged 15 and older in Alberta (90.0%) were employed in the services-producing sector in 2016, especially in industries such as health care and social assistance (224,000), retail trade (137,000), and educational services (103,000).
- In contrast, substantially fewer men in Alberta were employed in these industries. For example, 3.7% of men compared to 21.7% of women were employed in health care and social assistance industries.
- In 2016, women across Canada were largely concentrated in the same industries as their counterparts in Alberta, with the highest portion of women in Canada also working in health care and social assistance (22.4%), followed by retail trade (12.8%), and educational services (9.9%).
- The top occupational categories among women in Alberta in 2016 were administrative and financial supervisors (88,000), office support (80,000) and service support and other service (62,000). Similar results were observed nationally: the top three occupations were administrative and financial supervisors (752,000); office support (567,000); and service representatives and other customer and personal services (533,000).
- In Alberta, 6.3% of female workers held senior or middle management occupations in 2016 versus 11.3% of men. A similar trend was found at the national level (6.5% for women compared to 11.1% for men).
- In 2016, 65,000 women held management occupations in Alberta, representing 31.9% of the total management positions in the province.

- Even though there was a larger number of women in management positions in 2016 (65,000) than there were in 2006 (64,000), the proportion of women holding a management position in Alberta remained unchanged at about 32.0%. Similar results were found nationally, with women accounting for about 35.0% of all management positions in 2006 and 2016.

Table 1: Top 5 industries with highest female (aged 15 years and older) employment

Alberta, 2016

Industry	Number of Females Employed	% of Females Employed	% of Males Employed
Health care and social assistance	224,000	21.7%	3.7%
Retail trade	137,000	13.3%	8.9%
Educational services	103,000	10.0%	3.8%
Accommodation and food services	83,000	8.0%	5.0%
Professional, scientific and technical services	76,000	7.4%	8.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Table 2: Top 5 occupations with highest female (aged 15 years and older) employment

Alberta, 2016

Occupation	Number of Females Employed	% of Females Employed	% of Males Employed
Administrative and financial supervisors and administrative occupations	88,000	8.6%	2.1%
Office support occupations	80,000	7.7%	0.4%
Service support and other service occupations	62,000	6.0%	4.1%
Service representatives and other customer and personal services occupations	61,000	5.9%	2.1%
Professional occupations in education services	55,000	5.4%	2.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey